



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

Mauritian Participant at International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP)
"Parks, Biodiversity and Ecotourism Management"

Port Louis, August 22, 2013: The U.S. Embassy, Port Louis, is sponsoring Mr. Suraj Gopal to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) "Parks, Biodiversity and Ecotourism Management", from September 3 to September 20, 2013 in the U.S. Mr. Suraj Gopal is a Research and Development Officer (Wildlife) for the National Parks and Conservation Service, under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries. He will be departing Mauritius on August 31st. The program will start in Washington D.C. and end in Honolulu, Hawaii.

This program is designed to: examine the U.S. national park and protected area management systems, trends in biodiversity conservation and wildlife management, and tourism standards and practices; view the range of services, infrastructure, concessions and tourist information in U.S. parks and natural attractions and discuss how communities provide input for planning for tourism development; and foster discussion among field experts and local communities on the roles of different levels of government and the private sector in biodiversity preservation, parks management, and tourism facility development. After Washington D.C., the team will split in different groups: Albuquerque, New Mexico; Orlando, Florida; and Portland, Oregon. They will then get to know more about the role of state and local government and public/private partnerships in park management, conservation, and ecotourism; working with the local community (e.g. getting input and managing conflicting needs); Volunteerism; Education and youth engagement in environmental issues. Before leaving for Hawaii, the different groups will meet in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Participants will be coming from Botswana, Bangladesh, Maldives and Peru, amongst other countries.

International Visitor Leadership Program

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. It seeks to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other nations through carefully designed short-term visits to the U.S. for current and emerging foreign leaders. International Visitors are current or emerging leaders in government, politics, the media, education, the arts, business and other key fields. Over 4,000 International Visitors come to the United States from all over the world each year.

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